

1 2. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 1 wherein said spilled material is mercury.

1 3. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 2 wherein said deformable substrate member
2 with said coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated
3 members taken from the group of a contacting quantity of particles, woven and matted
4 filaments, metal powders and particle sponges.

1 4. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 3 wherein said deformable substrate member
2 with said coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated metal
3 members in at least one of particle or filamentary form and taken from the group of copper,
4 zinc and silver.

1 5. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 4 wherein said coating of a material having a
2 high affinity for said spilled material is gold.

1 6. (Canceled) In the transferring of spilled material through the use of an intermediate
2 absorber member for the spilled material,
3 the improvement comprising:
4 a deformable absorber member in a form of at least one of a contacting quantity of
5 particles and a filamentary arrangement and the interstices of said absorber being coated
6 with a thin coating of a material having a high affinity for said spilled material.

1 7. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 6 wherein said spilled material is mercury.

1 8. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 7 wherein said material having a high affinity
2 for said spilled material is gold.

1 9. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 8 wherein the material in said deformable
2 absorber are of metal taken from the group of copper, zinc and silver.

1 10. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 9 wherein said deformable absorber is at least
2 one braid of copper wires.

1 11. (Canceled) In the handling of spilled material through transfer from the spillage
2 location, the improvement comprising:
3 the use of a deformable absorber member with a thin surface coating of a material that
4 has a high affinity for said spilled material.

1 12. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 11 wherein said deformable absorber member
2 is at least one of a quantity of contacting particles and intertwined filaments that impart
3 a wicking capability with respect to a spillage in liquid form.

1 13. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 12 wherein said deformable absorber
2 member is at least one braid of woven copper wires.

1 14. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 13 wherein said deformable absorber
2 member is contacting quantity of particles supported in an inert tubular holder.

1 15. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 12 wherein said spilled material is
2 mercury and said elements of said deformable absorber member are coated with gold.

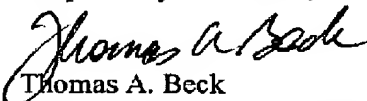
1 16. (Currently amended) A transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity
2 of spilled mercury from a spillage area comprising:
3 a deformable absorber serving as a spillage area contacting member, said member being
4 of a at least one material including selected from the group consisting of from
5 the group consisting of particles, woven filaments, metal powders and particle sponges, and,
6 a coating of gold on said contacting member on at least a portion contacting said spillage
7 area.

1 17. The process of collection and transporting of a quantity of spilled mercury from
2 a spillage area comprising the steps of: providing a deformable absorbable hand tool
3 serving as a spillage area contacting member,
4 said member being formed of a at least one material including selected from the group
5 consisting of particles, woven and matted filaments, metal powders and particle
6 sponges, and said member having a deformable region and a contacting region and
7 having a coating of gold,
8 positioning said member with said deformable area in contact with said spillage area,
9 and, moving said member over said spillage area. --

If there are any charges associated with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account 50-0510. If required, Applicant hereby petitions for a one

A "Change of Correspondence Address" on behalf of the undersigned is enclosed. Please address all further correspondence to the undersigned at the address listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,


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I hereby certify that this paper is being telefaxed to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated below addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Signature

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Date: September 14, 2004